

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were originally filed in the present application. In the Office Action mailed 6/20/06, the Examiner restricted Claims 1-20 into the following groups: Group I (Claims 1-8), Group II (Claims 9-15), and Group III (Claims 16-20). Applicants herein elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-8). Applicants also herein cancel Claims 9-20 in order to further their business interests and the prosecution of the present application, yet without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and while preserving the right to prosecute the canceled (or similar) claims in the future.

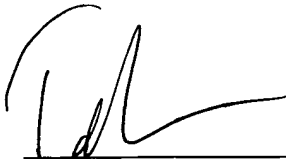
The Examiner has further required the Applicants to elect a single variant nephroretin polypeptide for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is found allowable (Office Action, pg. 3). The Applicants hereby elect the species of SEQ ID NO:10. Applicants remind that Examiner that upon allowance of a generic claims, Applicants are entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim (37 C.F.R. 1.141).

The Applicants have added new Claims 21 and 22. Support for these claims can be found in the specification (e.g., at paragraphs 213-219).

CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (618) 218-6900.

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Tanya A. Arenson
Registration No. 47,391

MEDLEN & CARROLL, LLP
101 Howard Street, Suite 350
San Francisco, California 94105
(608) 218-6900